

BTEC SUMMER TASK

Task A:

- Listen to the original Sondheim and Wheeler's 1979 Broadway stage recording of Sweeney Todd as an introduction to the Musical. The film version is rated 18 and so cannot be set to watch.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYfAbaAAM7dOv_PjPQqMatagZqnjLuv3-

- What would you say is challenging about the music for a musical theatre performer?
- What would you suggest the style of the musical is having listened to it?

Task B:

Once you have reflected on the Soundtrack, research and bring notes (**in your own words**) on the stage musical:

- Research the synopsis (outline of the narrative) of the **stage version** of **Sweeney Todd** in your own words
- Research the **origins of the story of Sweeney Todd**? where does it come from? Is it based in real life or complete fiction?
- Research Stephen Sondheim – who is he? What has he done in his career?
- Watch Sondheim talking about Sweeney Todd: What does it tell you about the intention of the musical and the role of the musical numbers?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKZGIwZvexw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=naHgXkV-JII>

- How does the musical numbers help tell the story? What is the role of the ensemble in the musical?

TASK C

- Create **A Skills Audit**. What are the vital skills required to be a successful musical theatre performer in **this specific musical** under the headings of Acting, Singing and Dance. Rank these skills in terms of importance to being cast in this musical if you were at a professional audition for it, regardless of role.

NOTE:

It is okay to go to Wikipedia for information initially, but you should find other reliable sources to quote from for task B and not quote from Wikipedia. Remember to put other people's words into " " and also remember to write down where you got your information from.